

**MULTI-STAGE TELEPHONE NUMBER DIALING
SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING
LIMITED ACCESS TO A TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBER**

5 Abstract of the Disclosure

A multi-stage telephone number dialing system and method of "semi-listed" numbers provides limited and selective access of individuals to a telephone subscriber. When a semi-listed number is called, a recorded announcement is played to the caller requesting that the caller enter an authorization code or "PIN" (Personal
10 Identification Number). One of a number of possible actions is then performed based on the entered PIN, illustratively determined by a database lookup. Actions which may be taken include (i) connecting the incoming call through to the subscriber, (ii) directing the incoming call to a voice mailbox, (iii) providing a recorded message to the caller, and (iv) disconnecting the call.